The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The reward of one duty is the power to fulfill another.—George Eliot.

ABSOLUTISM MUST NOT TRIUMPH OVER MINERS

The A. F. of L.'s appeal for money, food and clothing to aid striking miners is not an ordinary call.

The miners' resistance against wage reductions should dispel every illusion that the cheap-wage theory has been rejected in this country.

The miners face grim realities. They are opposed by Federal and State injunctions, by the eviction process and by gunmen and every other power that allied greed can muster.

Massed against these 750,000 workers and their dependents are the nation's most powerful industrial and financial interests and their political agents.

A Federal judge has prohibited anyone from aiding miners to contest being evicted from company houses. Railroads and financial interests are hoping for cheaper coal, regardless of devastating social and economic consequences, while anti-unionists in general know that the miners' defeat will be a blow to collective bargaining—the foundation of trade unionism.

The effect of this strike can not be estimated. Behind starvation, degradation, clubbing and the denial of legal rights loom the contest between absolutism in industry and the right of workers to control themselves.

Organized labor is a standing challenge to this absolutism that would use every social, industrial and political power to entrench itself.

Starving miners, suffering women and children and outraged justice is the effect. The cause is a new kingship that makes pawns of the State, as did autocrats in other days.

Organized labor should not be alone in defeating this new autocracy. No citizen who believes in our American theory of life can say: "I am not interested."

If absolutism can defeat the miners it wins a most important outpost from the defenders of democracy. It will extend its attack by quietly reforming its lines for other conquests.

Absolutism and trade unionism can not co-exist.

If the miners are defeated they lose freedom, as well as wages. They will be changed to serfs, without social conscience and social duties.

Let no worker be lulled into fancied security because absolutism does not thunder its purpose from the housetops.

Freedom's foes never announce their intention.

Every trade union can protect itself by giving heed to the A. F. of L.'s appeal to sustain these miners in their resistance against modern absolutism.

CONDITIONS IN COAL FIELDS TOLD AT WHITE HOUSE VISIT

Washington, Nov. 26.—President Coolidge was informed of conditions in the bituminous coal strike zone by a delegation consisting of William Green, president A. F. of L.; John L. Lewis, president United Mine Workers; Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L.; Daniel J. Tobin, treasurer; and Vice Presidents Frank Duffy, Matthew Woll, Martin F. Ryan, James Wilson and James P. Noonan.

The unionists requested the President to call a conference of coal owners and miners; to recommend that Congress investigate charges that railroads are conspiring to lower coal prices below freight rate bases, and that executive notice be taken of injunctions in the strike zone.

The President said he would discuss the conference proposal with Secretary of Labor Davis. It was said in his behalf that he did not see that a conference is possible unless both sides are willing. President Lewis made the point that the miners had never refused the government's request to join in a conference, and there is no reason why the same rule of conduct should not apply to the coal operators.

In support of their charges against the railroads, the unionists pointed out that freight rates are predicated on coal costs to the railroads of $2.25 a ton. Instead of paying this rate, the roads are paying $1.60 and in certain cases as low as $1.40. The difference between these low costs and the amount they are supposed to pay is a clear gain. The Pennsylvania Railroad leads in this lowering of wages and gouging of the public. The New York Central lines and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad are also engaged in this practice.

SOLDIER FACES FACTS

Major General Hanson of the United States Army is a realist. In a recent speech in Washington he said:

"The right the United States has to enforce policies like the Monroe doctrine, the open door in China and immigration barriers in its strong right arm."

General Hanson's views summarize the history of nations—and of the trade union movement.

A plea for justice, when backed by power, will win when the same plea, backed by innocent hopes, will be scorned.

Might does not make right, but might makes it possible to secure justice.

A BEFUDDLED EDITOR

The Wall Street Journal says this country needs more immigrants and that "American production could easily absorb the new workers."

Only recently this editor declared that if production in this country operated 100 per cent "our prosperity would soon end."

In his November 19 issue, he said:

"They (employers) could produce 30 per cent more steel than they are now turning out. They also could produce 30 per cent more copper, more automobiles, more tires, more sugar, more locomotives, and cars, etc. But they won't do so because the demand is not there."

Now he says more immigrants could easily find employment.

ANTI-UNION LAWYER WORRIED OVER LABOR

New York, Nov. 26.—James A. Emery, attorney for the National Association of Manufacturers, is alarmed at labor's campaign against the injunction.

In an address to the annual convention of the National Founders' Association, Mr. Emery truthfully said the A. F. of L. is attempting to impair the power of the courts "to afford effective judicial protection in trade disputes." He fears that trade unionism is transformed into a political movement and he threw out dark hints that "radical and even foreign influences" are behind the workers' activity for injunction relief.

He did not name the "radical and even foreign influences," but this was not necessary in an audience composed of business men who cannot understand why workers insist on the right to bargain collectively.

Mr. Emery was joyful over recent legislation passed by the British government which annuls every right trade unionists in that country have secured the last century.

Mr. Barr referred to this legislation as a "popular uprising" against British trade unionism, but he failed to state that the British workers have repeatedly challenged the government to call a special election that the people may pass judgment on this legislation.

The attorney also expressed his opposition to the repeal of anti-combination laws. This is to be expected as the courts have made this legislation harmless against business and the acts are now only applied to labor.

COLONIAL PRINTERS HONORED BY TABLET

Philadelphia, Nov. 26.—After a century and a quarter of obscurity the two printers who first printed the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, Washington's Farewell Address and the first daily newspaper in America were honored by having a bronze tablet unveiled in their memory.

They were Captain John Dunlap and Lieutenant David C. Claypoole, soldiers of the Revolution and friends of Washington. They conducted a small printing office in this city. Claypoole was born in Ireland and Dunlap was born of Quaker parents in this city.

OPPOSE "LAME DUCKS"

Washington, Nov. 26.—Senator Norris will urge his "lame duck" amendment to the Constitution when Congress convenes the first Monday in December. The resolution fixes January 24 instead of March 4 as the date of the presidential inaugural and changes the time of the assembling of the new Congress. If this constitutional reform is adopted "lame ducks" could not assist in the passage of legislation for three months after they have been repudiated by the people. The resolution has passed the Senate several times but has never been adopted by the House.

MUSSOLINI CONTROLS EMPLOYMENT OF LABOR

Rome, Nov. 26.—Mussolini has extended his dictatorship by having the Fascist Grand Council rule that hereafter an employer must select workers from a list of the anti-Fascist submitted to him by a public agency. His choice within the list will be unlimited, but he will not be permitted to choose an unlisted person, no matter how desirable such person may be.

Public employment agencies will be conducted by representatives of employers' organizations and Fascist trade unions. The secretary of the Fascist party in each city or village will be chairman.

Workers can be shifted from a locality where the supply is too great to a province which offers employment. The government will fix rates according to the poverty or prosperity of the region.

TEXTILE WAGES IN SOUTH LOWER THAN IN NORTH

Washington, Nov. 26.—The wide margin between wages in Southern and Northern textile mills is shown by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in a bulletin just issued on this subject.

For males, by States, all occupations combined, the range in the hosiery industry was from 28.6 cents per hour in Alabama and Louisiana as a combined group to $1.27 in New Jersey. For females in the hosiery industry the range was from 19.2 cents in Alabama and Louisiana to 52.1 cents in New York. In the underwear industry the average earnings per hour of males ranged from 22.9 cents per hour in Georgia to 56.6 cents in Massachusetts. For females the range was from 18.9 cents in Georgia to 45.3 cents in Illinois.

UNION LIFE INSURANCE APPOINTS NEW OFFICIAL

Washington, Nov. 26.—Matthew Woll, president Union Labor Life Insurance Company, appointed William Douglas McIntosh superintendent of agencies. Mr. McIntosh will enlarge the business of this co-operative movement that is owned by organized labor.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES UP

Washington, Nov. 26.—Food prices increased in 45 of the 51 cities reporting to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for the month of September 15-October 15. Baltimore, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New York, Pittsburgh and Rochester reported the largest gain of 2 per cent.

Butte with 1 per cent and Jacksonville with less than five-tenths of 1 per cent, reported decreases.

BUILDERS INDORSE FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK

Santa Barbara, Cal., Nov. 26.—The Builders' Exchange has given their hearty assent to a five-day week for carpenters.

The carpenters asked their employers to favor the short week, and were notified by the manager of the exchange:

"The board of directors of the exchange has directed me to inform you that this change meets their entire approval and they further feel it will be advantageous to everyone concerned and beneficial to the building industry as well."

MINERS ENJOINED FROM PICKETING

Indiana, Pa., Nov. 26.—Miners in this county are victims of a temporary injunction issued by Judge J. N. Langham at the request of the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation.

The miners are restrained from picketing and from issuing appeals to non-unionists to stay away from the mines.

The Clearfield corporation figured prominently in the Pittsburgh mine conference, called by the A. F. of L., when miners' officials named Governor Fisher as an attorney and an official of the company, which was identified as a subsidiary of the New York Central lines. The company has reduced wages and evicted unionists from their company houses.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE HANDLED BY ALIENS

Washington, Nov. 26.—If business men in this country patronized American vessels they would have an American merchant marine.

The inconsistency of these business men is shown by a United States Shipping Board report which states that foreign ships carried more than two-thirds of America's foreign trade in 1926.

American shippers paid $600,000,000 for ship carriage, the report said. Of this amount foreign ship owners received about $480,000,000.

GOLDEN RULE SUNDAY

Washington, Nov. 26.—The International Golden Rule Sunday, approved by the A. F. of L., will be observed this year on December 4.

The purpose of this observance is to assist 33,000 children in the Near East—mostly Armenians and Greeks—who have been made orphans by wars, deportations and massacres.

Workers Rally To Car Men's Aid; Will Fight For Organizing Rights

New York, Nov. 26.—Organized labor in this city are aiding street car men in their opposition to the Interborough Company's plan to enjoin in Street Traction Club and the membership of the American Federation of Labor from enrolling employes of the Interborough.

"We came here at the request of the workers themselves, and if we fail it will be time to place a lily on the breast of the labor movement," said Wm. D. Mahon, president Amalgamated Association of Electric and Street Railway Employes.

"Organized labor is not going to be destroyed without a struggle. One is supposed to be stricken dumb by the very thought of court action, but we must face this situation fearlessly. If a judge can sit on a bench and throw the constitution to the winds and the old equity court idea, under which a single judge can tie the hands of all the workers of America, must be fought. We can not surrender, and we will not."

STANDARDS OF LIVING ALWAYS TEND UPWARD

New York, Nov. 26.—"There is no fixed saturation point in progressive society, no limit to the growth of demand," Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman of Columbia University told a group of business men at a dinner in this city. The educator said society would increase its demands for what is now termed "luxuries," and that there is no limit to these demands.

"The luxury of one age becomes the necessity of the next," he said. "Economists have in modern times been making intelligible what is known as the economy of high wages. High productivity, high efficiency, high standard of life go hand in hand with inventive ingenuity, with increase of capital and augmented prosperity. In this process no small part is played by the gradual transition of commodities from the category of luxuries to that of comforts and necessities."

The speaker agreed that the automobile has brought "decided resultant evils" in individual cases, "yet on the whole," he said, "we can not regard the automobile as a type of foolish and wasteful consumption.

"No one would dispute the statement that the advent of the automobile has marked a revolution in economic and social life comparable to that produced by the introduction of the railway; and that in the one case, as in the other, we must weigh up the evils with the benefits, with the conclusion that there is little doubt as to where the balance of advantage lies."

DEPORTATION TALK ALARMS U. S. FASCISTI

New York, Nov. 26.—Count Ignacio Thaon di Revel, president of the Fascisti League of North America, is alarmed at the prospects of Congress investigating his organization. The hearings may result in legislation that will make it possible to deport unnaturalized Fascisti and revoke the citizenship of Americans who have taken the Fascist oath.

The count is not an American citizen and has announced he will not become one, though he has lived here seven years. He hints that the Italian population will rally to his cause, though the league has a membership of "only 12,000 to 14,000 members."

FERRY BOAT EMPLOYES WIN SHORTER WORK DAY

San Francisco, Nov. 26.—Nearly 1,500 ferry boat employes of four railroads won a victory in their arbitration proceedings.

The 12-hour day is reduced to eight hours and an average wage increase of $10 a month is ordered. This means an additional $230,000 annually to the workers.

The railroads' representatives plead poverty and filed a dissenting opinion.

MILK DRIVERS GAIN

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 26.—Retail milk drivers have raised wages $1.25 a week. Next year an additional $1 weekly will be paid, and another $1 will be paid after two years.

This organization secured its present position after bitter contests with employers who "believed in trade unionism," if it were weak and helpless.

MEXICAN LAND LAWS ANNULLED BY COURT

Washington, Nov. 26.—The Mexican Supreme Court has declared void sections 14 and 15 of the Mexican Constitution, adopted in 1917.

The Constitution, the court holds, can not be retroactive, and can only apply to conditions that exist at the time, or after, the Constitution was adopted.

Section 14 declared that ownership of subsoil rests in the nation. This permitted the government to adopt stringent regulations of petroleum lands, which were objected to by foreign owners.

Section 15 provided that an owner of petroleum lands must prove his title before he operates same. The Supreme Court ruled that this, also, only applies to lands acquired after the Constitution was adopted.

Other sections of the Constitution are undisturbed. These include a provision that petroleum land owners must secure 50-year leases. Under the court's ruling ownership of these lands do not have to be proven unless the lands were acquired after 1917.

"The decision by the Mexican Supreme Court will be helpful in establishing right relations between that country and the United States," said Santiago Iglesias, secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

HIDING OIL WITNESS MAY LOSE $100,000

Washington, Nov. 26.—Harry M. Blackmer, oil operator who is hiding in Europe to escape testifying in the Fall-Sinclair case, permitted the government to seize $100,000 in cash.

Blackmer is badly wanted by the government. The last Congress passed a law providing that property to the amount of $100,000 could be levied on citizens who flee from the country under such conditions. Justice Siddons of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia ordered this amount collected from Blackmer's property, and now it is discovered that Blackmer thoughtfully had $100,000 deposited in a local bank where a federal marshal seized it.

Blackmer's attorneys are hopeful the money will be returned, as they insist that the law is unconstitutional.

EVERY LIBERTY LOST BY ITALIAN PEOPLE

New York, Nov. 26.—In five years of control, the Fascisti movement has stripped the Italian people of every liberty, says Il Nuovo Mundo (The New World), an Italian newspaper published in this city.

The Fascisti regime has brought these results:

Abolition of the right to vote; suppression of press, free speech and assemblage; abolition of the right of petition; institution of obligatory syndicalism (government trade unionism and wages by law); abolition of parliamentary government; maintenance of armed corps for service of the party in power; abolition of the right of organization and citizenship; institution of the death penalty, and suppression of liberty of conscience in the courts of justice.

TEXTILE STRIKE FOE FACES GRAVE CHARGES

Passaic, N. J., Nov. 26.—Chief of Police Zober, who was suspended from office October 5, will be tried on five charges that he violated the criminal laws of this State. The complaints are signed by the acting chief of police, who accuses Zober of receiving and selling stolen automobiles.

Zober permitted the police department to be used against workers during the recent textile strike. He clubbed the workers, broke up their meetings and terrorized women and children.

METAL WORKERS GAIN

Vancouver, Canada, Nov. 24.—Sheet metal workers have raised wages 50 cents a day, effective one year, beginning January 1.

LABOR URGED TO AID MINERS; STIRRING APPEAL BY COUNCIL

Washington, Nov. 26.—"With the approach of winter the hardships of striking miners will be almost unbearable and they must have help," says the A. F. of L. Executive Council in a stirring appeal to the trade union movement for money, food, clothing and shoes.

The appeal is a vivid picture of privation enforced on 150,000 miners and their 600,000 women and children in western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and other sections.

"The suffering of the wives and children who are poorly clothed, ill fed and undernourished should reach the great heart of the American labor movement and bring an immediate response to their pathetic appeal for help," says the executive council.

"The voice of the sturdy miner, whose head is bowed with grief as he daily witnesses the suffering of his wife and offspring, is in this appeal. The voice of the wife and mother begs you to help feed her young. The cries of little children, huddled in barracks and shacks, resound in this appeal. Think of this and let these cries, which will soon start to be ear-increasing volume, reach your heart and touch your deepest emotions.

"Give money! Give clothing! Give food! Give everything you have that will help the miners in this great struggle.

"We urge that national and international unions contribute generously; that local unions do likewise and appoint committees to gather funds and supplies.

"Let State Federations of Labor and Central Bodies make special effort, through special committees, to collect funds, food, shoes and clothing. We express every organization to render very great service in response to this appeal. Enlist the women and women's organizations in the performance of this humane duty.

"Send all clothing, food, shoes and supplies to William Hargest, 408 Columbia Bank Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. Brother Hargest, together with officers of the United Mine Workers, will see that it is all distributed throughout the bituminous strike fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

"Send all money to Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., A. F. of L. Building, Washington. Secretary Morrison will promptly account for it and send it to the duly constituted officers of the United Mine Workers of America.

"We are face to face with a supreme test of the solidarity, brotherhood and fraternity of the organized labor movement. Tragedy, misery and woe stalk abroad in the bituminous strike fields. The victims are our brothers, their wives and their children.

"In the name of humanity and in the cause of organized labor we appeal to you to give in full measure and to keep giving over and over until the need for help is ended."

WHERE TO FORWARD COAL MINERS' RELIEF

Send all money for miners' relief to Frank Morrison, Secretary American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Clothing, food, shoes and supplies should be forwarded to William Hargest, 408 Columbia Bank Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Seamen's Laws Are In Danger; Ship Owners Renew Old Fight

Washington, Nov. 26.—Codification of the navigation laws, as proposed by the United States Shipping Board, means involuntary servitude to seamen, according to the International Seamen's Union of America.

The union has arranged for vigorous opposition to the board's plan, when Congress convenes, the first Monday in December.

"These amendments," the union states, "would undo every measure enacted by Congress during the past 20 years for the protection of seamen and the adequate manning of ships. In certain respects they would, in reality, restore the law as it existed 100 years ago. In a word, these amendments, if adopted, would practically restore the law to the protection of seamen and safety of life and property at sea.

"The spirit and intent of these suggested amendments disregard every consideration for the safety of persons necessary to the safe navigation of ships and all claim on the part of seamen to the protection of the law, both in home and in foreign ports. The seaman would be abandoned by the law and left helpless in the hands of those who would take advantage of him.

"The suggested amendments are based upon the assumption that neither skill nor experience is needed in the management and navigation of ships, and, therefore, ships may be safely sent to sea without seamen and manned by crews of incompetent, picked-up in the streets. Having reduced the status of seamanship to that of an unskilled occupation, proposed amendments would reduce the unskilled laborer himself below the status of ordinary humanity."

TRADE UNION FOE CHUMMY WITH REDS

New York, Nov. 26.—Trade unionism and Communism were put in the same class by William H. Barr of Buffalo, president of the National Founders' Association, at the annual convention of that organization. Mr. Barr repeated the stock phrases of anti-unionists.

Between trade unionism and Communism, however, he favored the latter.

Mr. Barr's friendship for Communism was indicated in "letter No. 43,1" issued from his office on October 10 last when he called on business men not to be alarmed over "this Communist thing," lest organized labor harm the so-called "open" shop.

According to Mr. Barr, Communism is less dangerous than the establishment of collective bargaining. To maintain control of his employes he would have the same autocracy in government. This theory of the anti-unionist is accepted by other reactionaries who line up at every test with revolutionists.

BOND ISSUE DEFEATED

San Francisco, Nov. 26.—The proposed bond issue to enlarge this city's municipal street car lines was defeated at the recent election. A majority of the voters favored the plan but a two-thirds approval was necessary.

Five-Day Work Week Is Inevitable President Green Tells Church Men

New York, Nov. 26.—"Organized labor is convinced the five-day week is economically sound and socially necessary," said William Green, president A. F. of L., in an address before the Men's Convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.

"It is significant that labor has not proposed the five-day week. The adoption of this economic change unit industry was prepared to accept and establish it," said Mr. Green. "The extension of the five-day work week during 1926 and 1927 shows that labor sensed its practicability.

"From an economic standpoint machinery and power are doing much to hasten the acceptance of the five-day week. With the aid of machinery and power the worker has raised his standard of efficiency and increased productivity until he now produces more in a shorter number of working hours and working days. We are not able to state definitely the percentage of increase. It ranges from 25 per cent to more than 100 per cent. Productivity per man hour has increased in the iron and steel industry, automobile industry, rubber manufacturing and miscellaneous trades from 50 per cent to 300 per cent. The amount of primary horsepower per person, since 1919, has increased 33.3 per cent.

"The whole tendency in industrial development is toward a reduction in working hours. Through a period of years one section of industry after another has changed from the 10 and 12 hour work day to the eight-hour day, until it became almost universally established.

"This gradual reduction in the hours of labor was not followed by an increase in the cost of manufactured articles, but, on the contrary, costs were reduced. The productivity of workers has increased while the number of hours worked per day has decreased.

"We have now reached the point where we are systematically passing from the five and one-half and six-day week to the five-day week."

PEOPLE'S MONEY USED TO PAY FOR SPY PLOT

New York, Nov. 26.—An appeal to the Transit Commission to investigate "large expenditures of money for a vast system of espionage by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company which, in effect, puts the city in the spying business as an investor in subways," is asked by officers of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes.

The company wants an injunction against the entire labor movement to protect its company "union" and yellow dog.

"We have the spectacle of a private corporation using city money to carry on a despicable practice," said Samuel H. Coleman, an Amalgamated representative.

"It can easily be established that the Interborough goes to such lengths in its battle on unionism solely because it would retain its control and to settling disputes 'should be devised,' and Mr. Hedley continues to describe the birth of the company-controlled union."

WIDE UTILITY PROBE OPPOSED BY BUSINESS

Washington, Nov. 26.—The public utility probe by Congress, suggested by Senator Walsh of Montana, is meeting opposition from the same element who insisted the oil investigations were a "political movement" and were intended to "injury legitimate business."

Millions of profits have been made by the sale of securities of these interlocked public utilities. The corporations defend the sale of watered stock and say rates have not been reduced if their vast profits are legitimate.

CARPENTERS WIN STRIKE

Toronto, Canada, Nov. 26.—Organized labor has won its fight for five-weeks' strike. The union shop is established, all legal proceedings are dropped and wages are increased 10 cents an hour, starting the first of the year. More than 1,300 carpenters were involved.

FARMERS RE-ELECT BARRETT

Des Moines, Nov. 26.—C. S. Barrett of Union City, Ga., was re-elected president of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union at that organization's annual convention here.